

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

Pasture / Hayland

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Pasture / Hayland		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Water Quality	
1. a. A CNMP, in accordance with USDA, NRCS standards, has been developed for the grazing herd.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Will the implementation of practice(s) within this application result in livestock no longer receiving drinking water from direct contact with surface water resources?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. If 382, Fence is in the contract, will the fences be at least 35 feet from ALL wetlands and water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. d. If 382, Fence is in the contract, will the fences be between 35 feet - 10 feet from ALL wetlands and water?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant Condition	
2. a. Will the producer implement a prescribed grazing plan in accordance with the requirements of CT NRCS 528, Prescribed Grazing?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Does the application include 511, Forage Harvest Management to improve forage quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Residence period does not exceed 1 day per paddock, during times of year where plant growth is vigorous, as detailed in the grazing plan.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Does the pasture(s) have both legumes and grass species existing or planned?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Does the pasture(s) have both warm and cool season grasses existing or planned?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. f. Does the pasture system make use of any annual forages?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. g. Forage establishment will include at least four different species of perennial forage species.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Livestock Health	
3. a. Are there enough grazing acres to meet the grazing requirements of the existing livestock at the time of application based on a completed grazing plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Is grazing likely to provide 75% of feed during the growing season?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Is grazing likely to provide 75 -100 % of feed during the growing season?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Will excess forage be utilized for the applicant's winter feed management and as part of a grass fed/grazing livestock operation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Condition	
4. a. Will the forage be frost crack seeded or use minimum tillage?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Will the implementation of practice(s) within this application result in the conversion of cropland to permanent perennial vegetation for livestock usage? (Pasture or Hay)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Will this application address soil health through the implementation of forage and biomass planting, waste recycling, and/or nutrient management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Is this a hayland to hayland re-seeding that involves diversification of the vegetative species	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

composition to improve soil health by adding either legumes or warm season grasses	
4. e. Does the application include practices that improve soil health by reducing compaction, improving fertility and/or building organic matter?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife	
5. a. Does the application include installation of watering facilities with consideration for wildlife access?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Does the contract include practices like 327 Conservation Cover, 393 Field Borders, 391 Riparian Forest Buffers, 380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Development, 612 Tree/Shrub Planting, 395 IPM or 647 Early Successional Habitat Management that are designed to benefit pollinators or other wildlife? (refer to New England Pollinator Handbook for design recommendations)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. c. Does the application include deferred mowing or grazing of hayland or pasture in order to benefit ground nesting birds?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
Location	
1. a. Is this an application for practices to address water quality at a confined livestock feeding operation that is located in a twelve (12) digit Hydrologic Unit code (HUC) watershed of a 303(d) listed stream?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. b. Is this application located in a Public Water Supply Watershed or designated Aquifer Protection Area AND does it contain practices that address water quality?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
1. c. Does the contract application involves land that has been permanently protected through federal, state, local government programs or private land trusts?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Degree of Cooperation by Producer	
2. a. Have other Federal, State, local, or non governmental organization financial resources been committed to this project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. If the applicant has an existing EQIP contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Is this the applicant's first EQIP application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Magnitude of Expected Benefits	
3. a. Does the contract application have energy as a secondary resource concern?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Does the contract application involve conservation of surface and/or groundwater (i.e. irrigation water management)	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Will the practices in this contract directly benefit threatened or endangered species according to results obtained from the CT-DEEP NDDDB (Natural Diversity Database)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Has the producer completed, or is currently enrolled in, an organic certification program recognized by USDA?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency: Local Issues: State Issues: National Issues: Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is

selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: